

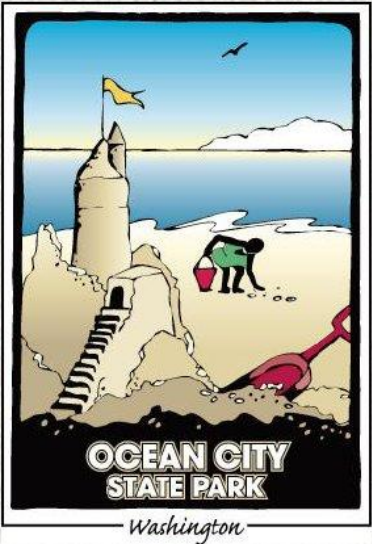


## North Beach area state parks CAMP



- Pacific Beach State Park
- Ocean City State Park
- Griffiths-Priday Ocean State Park
- Damon Point
- Seashore Conservation Area

## Stage 2 – Exploring Alternative Approaches

May 20, 2009



WASHINGTON STATE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



**CAMP**  
Washington State Parks  
Classification and Management Planning Project

## PREFACE

This document, along with supporting maps, explores alternative approaches for management of the North Beach Area state parks and properties as part of State Parks' Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) Project. During the first stage of planning, public and staff participants identified a host of issues facing these parks.

Now, for the second stage, the agency the planning team has developed alternative approaches that respond to your issues that are posted on the project webpage under stage one <http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/northbeacharea/>

The team will also present alternative approaches for public input at a planning workshop scheduled for May 27, 2009 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at the Shilo Inn, 707 Ocean Shores Blvd NW, Ocean Shores, WA. Written follow-up comments are encouraged and should be sent to Brian Hovis, Parks Planner at [brian.hovis@parks.wa.gov](mailto:brian.hovis@parks.wa.gov) or mailed to: Washington State Parks, Planning and Research Program, PO Box 42650 Olympia, WA 98504-2650. Comments received before June 15 will be considered by the planning team at its next meeting and posted on the webpage.

Your input will help us select the best ideas from each alternative and incorporate them into a single preliminary plan for further public review. It is difficult to communicate entirely in writing and misunderstandings happen. If you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to call or E-mail Brian Hovis (contact information at end of report).

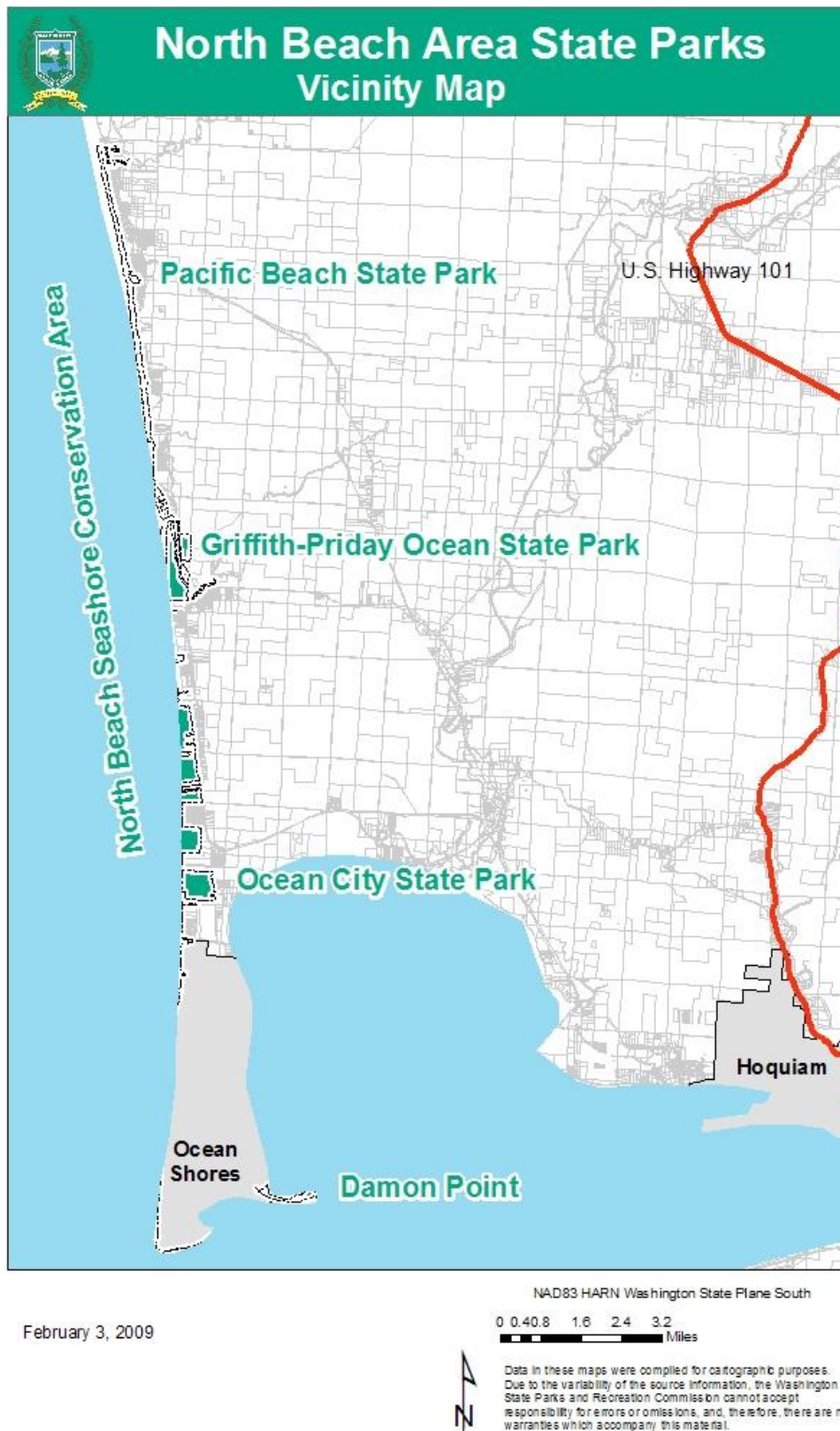


Figure 1: Location map

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# INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) manages a diverse array of 121 parks located throughout the state. The parks protect the best of Washington's natural and human heritage; provide access to the great outdoors and offer learning and inspiration.

The Commission adopted the Centennial 2013 Plan<sup>1</sup> in October, 2003, thereby creating a focus intended to energize and bring together the agency, state leadership and the public. Together we can work toward a parks system all can celebrate as it turns 100 years old and prepares for a second century of service.

Priority No. 1 in the Centennial 2013 Plan "Our Commitment" is fixing up the state parks and recreation services you enjoy today, while looking towards the future. We pursue a vision so that each park will be *Premier destinations of uncommon quality . . . outstanding for the experience, health, enjoyment and learning of all people*. Our goal is have a land-use plan for all 120 parks by Centennial 2013.

In stage one community members and park customers provided comments about what was important to change or retain in the state parks. Participants could either attend a public workshop or send comments by E-mail or letter. Comments received were posted on the webpage under stage one.

In this stage we review comments, summarize the main issues and provide alternative approaches to resolve those issues. The alternatives help set boundaries and provide a range of options. Comments received before June 15 will be considered by the planning team at its meeting and posted on the webpage.

As a reminder, the process in which you are involved is designed to comply with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (WAC 352-11.) Your comments will help State Parks identify environmental issues to be analyzed as staff considers the overall environmental impacts that may result from adoption of the final plan. Please see Appendix A for a description of the potential environmental implications for certain actions described in this document.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.parks.wa.gov/Centennial2013/>

## THE PROCESS

The planning process goes through four stages and people are encouraged to participate in all stages. The process also reflects the standards set out in the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and information collected through the planning effort will be used to satisfy SEPA requirements.

The planning process includes a series of public workshops and will end when the Commission provides its policy direction. The workshops are designed to be open-ended forums to allow the public to help develop the plan. Please note that the dates for public workshops are subject to change. If you provide your contact information, the planning team will provide you updates. E-mail addresses are encouraged to conserve resources.

### Stage One – Identify issues and concerns

The purpose of this stage is to understand what is important to the park community and customer, what to change or save in the state park. This helps get a sense of the range and type of issues that need to be considered through the planning process.

The first public workshop was held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 18, 2008 at the Ocean Shores Convention Bureau. Our thanks to the bureau for its support of the North Beach state parks.

### Stage Two – Exploring alternative approaches

At this stage, the planning team suggests potential alternative approaches to address the various issues and concerns raised by people in stage one. No preferred alternative is established; rather this is an opportunity to understand the range of possibilities.

The second public workshop will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at the Shiloh Inn, 707 Ocean Shores Blvd NW, Ocean Shores. Our thanks to the Shiloh Inn for its support.

### Stage Three – Preparing preliminary recommendations

The best ideas from the alternative approaches developed in stage two are combined into a preliminary plan in this stage. The plan includes recommendations for use and development of land, changes to property boundaries and ways to address issues raised during the planning process. Another important document completed at this stage is the SEPA checklist that describes environmental impacts of the recommendations (available for public review upon request).



## **Stage Four – Preparing final recommendations**

At stage four, final adjustments are made to recommendations and submitted to the seven-member Parks and Recreation Commission for approval. The public is encouraged to attend the Commission meeting and provide testimony or to provide written comment.

Commission meeting: December 3 in Centralia, Washington (tentative)

At first some people get frustrated with the open-endedness of the planning process. By the end, most people feel that they have been truly heard. It is the goal of the planning team to take all concerns into consideration and respond to issues that arise during the planning process. In the end we will get to the "blueprint" stage. Before then, however, it is important to that the community and customers have an opportunity to share ideas and help build the final plan. The goal here is a common vision about what the state parks should become.

## **Discussion of the long-term park boundary**

One of the products of the CAMP is a long-term boundary for each state park. Determining long-term park boundaries is an often misunderstood aspect of park planning. The purpose of a long-term boundary is to take a big picture look at what lands, independent of ownership, might advance the conservation and recreation mission of the park. The team also considers whether agency-owned property should be retained or be considered surplus to park needs.

State Park acquires property on a willing-seller basis, so if the current landowner is not interested, nothing will happen in the short-term. Sometimes, when property changes hands, the new owner is more interested and transactions can take place. We are looking many years into the future in some cases.

Including privately owned property in a long-term boundary gives State Parks' staff the authority to have discussions that might lead to several types of land transactions. Being in a state park long-term boundary gives property owners one more option when planning for their property.

If the land owner is interested and the property is within a long-term boundary, there are actions available including land purchase. Amongst those actions might be one or a combination of the following:

- Seek to formalize an agreement to advance a shared property management goal, such as screening of houses to protect privacy.
- Help establish a conservation easement to protect features that are important to the park visitor's experience and to the landowners' privacy. Conservation easements can decrease a property owner's taxes.
- Accept a donation of all or part of a landowner's property. About 40 percent of the current Washington State Park system is made up of donated properties. Sometimes, this can be of benefit to a person's estate and create a lasting legacy.
- Consider exchanging agency-owned property for private property, either in the area or somewhere else in the state.

Having land included in a long-term boundary can be scary. The planning team will make every effort to contact affected landowners. Unfortunately, because we get information from public records, we usually do not have phone numbers. If you are one of those landowners included within a long-term park boundary, please contact Brian Hovis, Parks Planner. Contact information is at the end of this document.



## Discussion of land classification

Another CAMP product is land classification. Land classification is used by staff to determine what kinds of uses and activities are suitable for different parts of the state park. Land classifications are regulated by WAC 352-16-020, which reads:

*State park areas are of state-wide natural, cultural, and/or recreational significance and/or outstanding scenic beauty. They provide varied facilities serving low-intensity, medium intensity, and high intensity outdoor recreation activities, areas reserved for preservation, scientific research, education, public assembly, and/or environmental interpretation, and support facilities. They may be classified in whole or part as follows:*

- (1) **Recreational areas** are suited and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.
- (2) **Resource recreation areas** are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use.
- (3) **Natural areas** are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.
- (4) **Heritage areas** are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of state-wide or national significance.
- (5) **Natural forest areas** are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain:
  - (a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for one hundred fifty years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or
  - (b) Mature forest communities that have developed for ninety years or longer; or
  - (c) Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.
- (6) **Natural area preserves** are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.

Additional information about land classification types, including activities allowed under each may be found on the North Beach area state parks web page under miscellaneous documents. A hard copy can also be mailed to you.

## **Park Management Plan**

The third product of CAMP is preparation of a park management plan. Park management plans are relatively simple documents that describe a park's principal features, set park-wide management objectives, and outline specific approaches and prescriptions in response to issues identified through the planning process. These plans also document the planning process and serve as a clearinghouse for supporting information. A preliminary park management plan is usually prepared during the next (third) stage of the planning process.

## Area management objectives

Management objectives describe the purposes for the state parks. The management objectives must be consistent with laws, policy and the mission statement of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) that reads:

*THE WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ACQUIRES,  
OPERATES, ENHANCES, AND PROTECTS A DIVERSE SYSTEM OF RECREATIONAL,  
CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND NATURAL SITES.*

*THE COMMISSION FOSTERS OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION STATEWIDE TO  
PROVIDE ENJOYMENT AND ENRICHMENT FOR ALL AND A VALUED LEGACY TO  
FUTURE GENERATIONS.*

Likewise, the Centennial 2013 Vision<sup>2</sup> gives guidance to what state parks should be as the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission begins its second century of service.

*IN 2013, WASHINGTON'S STATE PARKS WILL BE PREMIER DESTINATIONS OF  
UNCOMMON QUALITY, INCLUDING STATE AND REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT NATURAL,  
CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES THAT ARE OUTSTANDING  
FOR THE EXPERIENCE, HEALTH, ENJOYMENT AND LEARNING OF ALL PEOPLE.*

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<sup>2</sup> Please see the Centennial 2013 Plan at <http://www.parks.wa.gov/Centennial2013/> or ask that a hard-copy be sent to you.

*The following draft management objectives are presented here for your review and comments. Do they seem like the most appropriate objectives?*

### Draft Area Management Objectives

**Recreational resources:**

- Provide and develop an array of compatible and quality overnight, day-use facilities and recreational opportunities that are inspired by and in harmony with the parks' natural and cultural resources.
- Increase trails within the state parks.
- Provide a full range of accessible park experiences and opportunities.
- Provide public beach access to the Pacific Ocean and Seashore Conservation Area.

**Natural resources:**

- In coordination with local, state, federal and tribal governments, maintain and enhance habitat for coastal flora and fauna.
- Interpret natural resources to the public to create and reinforce stewardship of those resources.

**Partnership:**

- Enhance partnership with local governments to provide public access to the Pacific Ocean and Seashore Conservation Area.
- Provide park visitor services through public and private partnerships and other entrepreneurial programs that are compatible with other park management objectives.

**Cultural resources:**

- Preserve historical and archaeological resources when performing maintenance and development projects.
- Provide interpretation to historical and cultural resources when appropriate.

**Park Enterprise:**

- Explore alternatives to increase overnight occupancy during non-peak use periods.
- Continue excellent customer service and programs or events that lead to a longer length of stay and repeat visits.
- Encourage donations to Washington State Parks to maintain and improve the park system.

## EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

During the first stage of planning, public and staff participants identified a host of issues facing the North Beach Area. Now, for the second stage, the agency planning team has developed alternative approaches that respond to those issues.

Alternatives are organized thematically to emphasize a major aspect of State Parks' mission. Thematic alternatives developed for the North Beach Area:

- Protecting natural and cultural resources
- Enhancing recreational opportunities

These alternative approaches help set boundaries and provide a range of options. Usually the recreational approach will mean more development, but not always. Conversely, the natural or cultural emphases may favor less development. In some cases, there does not seem to be a viable alternative approach, and then only one is listed.

It is sometimes hard to find a clear distinction between one alternative and another. For instance, it's possible that State Parks alternatives for long-term boundary (how big the state park might get) include the same properties, but for different purposes.

Please remember that the planning team is not advocating for any particular alternative at this stage. Your comments are needed as they were in stage one. Stage three is when preliminary staff recommendations are made.

We ask you to the alternative land classification and long-term boundary maps and written management approaches below, not to choose one alternative, but to find individual elements in each that appeal to you. Then let us know what you think. We are also interested in hearing new ideas we have not considered yet.

Readers should note that the sum of all of the approaches represents a significant staff workload and may also create very high expectations among agency staff and park stakeholders. Clearly, completing or even beginning all approaches in the short-term is not feasible with existing resources. This plan should be seen as a "to do" list where items will be prioritized as staff and financial resources permit.

## Damon Point

Damon Point Natural/Cultural Issues		
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities
<b>Recovery of Western Snowy Plover</b>  Western snowy plover is on the state and federal threatened species list. Damon Point is a listed federal critical habitat. State Parks is required by law and by policy to do no harm to these bird populations and their habitats.	As long as State Park has a management presence at Damon Point, the agency will continue to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to manage in a way that aids the recovery of threatened and endangered birds.	

Damon Point Recreational Issues		
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities
<p><b>Continuing public access to Damon Point</b></p> <p>Public access at Damon Point is managed by State Parks through an interagency agreement with the Washington state departments of Natural Resources (land owner), and Fish and Wildlife since 1988. State Parks has no land ownership.</p> <p>Through the years coastal erosion has reduced public access and almost all facilities have been removed. Public access as it has happened in the past with a paved roadway appears to be no longer viable.</p> <p>In order to continue public access additional land is needed to provide for parking and sanitary facilities. In addition a permanent easement for the access road would be needed.</p> <p>Both the Quinault Nation and the City of Ocean Shores have expressed an interest in managing public access at Damon Point.</p>	<p>Maintain the existing long-term boundary and operate the park for public access. Past the parking area, pedestrian access only would be allowed, except for administrative or emergency transportation purposes . Land classification would be predominantly Resource Recreation Area. A small area where the restroom formerly existed will be Recreation Area.</p> <p>Alternatively, State Parks could terminate the interagency agreement with the other state departments, which could lead to less public access.</p> <p>(Please see land classification and long-term boundary maps in Appendix B)</p>	<p>Work with partners to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire land and use existing developed areas for parking and sanitation. New and existing properties would be classified as Recreation Area.</li> <li>• Provide interpretation and orientation signage for visitors.</li> <li>• Acquire a permanent easement for the road, which would be classified as Recreation Area.</li> <li>• Obtain public access rights to the beach between Damon Point and the Oyehut Wildlife Refuge Area. Classification would be Resource Recreation Area, if the beach property was managed by State Parks.</li> </ul> <p>(Please see land classification and long-term boundary maps in Appendix B)</p>



Damon Point Recreational Issues		
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities
<p><b>Public access west of Damon Point</b></p> <p>People use the road to Damon Point to access the beach to the west that extends to the Oyehut Wildlife Refuge Area. The beach is mostly public, but County records show some tidelands in private ownership. The beach is part of the Seashore Conservation Area and recreation is governed by RCW 79A.05.600 through 79A.05.695.</p> <p>Neighbors have concerns about trash and potential trespass on the beach west of Damon Point.</p>	<p>If State Parks continues to manage public access, staff will work with local governments, interested stakeholders, and the neighbors to revise signage and trash collection as necessary.</p>	

## Ocean City State Park

Ocean City State Park Natural Issues		
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities
<p><b>Protection of natural plant and animal communities</b></p> <p>Ocean City State Park is important for its natural and environmental education values. There is little room to expand the recreational area because of wetlands.</p>	<p>Expand the long-term boundary to include wetlands to the south and to the northeast. This approach would protect wetlands and provide a buffer to the state park.. All of the property, except for the current developed area will be classified as Resource Recreation Area.</p> <p>(Please see land classification and long-term boundary maps in Appendix B)</p>	<p>Don't increase the long-term boundary. Classify the current developed area as Recreation Area and the remainder of the property as Resource Recreation Area.</p> <p>(Please see land classification and long-term boundary maps in Appendix B)</p>
<p><b>Flooding</b></p> <p>The state park is built amongst wetlands and when rain fall is heavy, parts of the campground flood.</p>	<p>Remove campsites from areas prone to flooding and restore wetland areas.</p>	<p>Retain the campsites and close them when flooding occurs, as is the curent practice.</p>
<p><b>Understanding the natural environment</b></p> <p>Birding and other wildlife viewing opportunities are important to park visitors.</p>	<p>Please see interpretive plan under General North Beach Area Issues (below).</p>	

Ocean City State Park Recreational Issues		
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities
<p><b>Budget Reduction – Mothballing Ocean City State Park</b></p> <p>The first public workshop in the planning process was dominated by the anticipation that Ocean City State Park might be mothballed in order to make required budget reductions.</p>	<p>The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission approved a budget implementation plan that keeps all state parks open in 2009-11, provided that a new donation program tied to vehicle license tabs brings in adequate revenue to operate state parks. Budget reductions will still need to occur at region and headquarters offices.</p> <p>The donation program, created by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Chris Gregoire, will begin this summer when vehicle owners begin receiving annual vehicle license tab renewal notices for September renewal. The renewal notices will include an automatic \$5 donation to keep state parks open, unless the vehicle owner chooses not to participate.</p> <p>“The Commission appreciates the thousands of people who took time to write us and let us know how much they value their parks and want them to remain open,” said Commission Chair Eliot Scull. “Many of those people expressed their concerns to the Legislature and the Governor, who responded with this new donation program to keep state parks open. We’re pleased and grateful for that.”</p>	
<p><b>Future development</b></p> <p>Campers want full hook-ups, improved campsites and an expansion of camping, because it is difficult to get reservations during the summer. Unfortunately, there is little room for camping expansion at Ocean City State Park. Please see Griffiths-Priday Ocean State Park.</p> <p>Other customers noted that the roads need to be resurfaced and asked for playgrounds, enclosed kitchen shelters and other improvements.</p>	<p>Add water and electricity at many of the standard campsites. Evaluate the surfaces and configuration of campground roads to determine whether traffic patterns and road surfaces should be improved to enhance visitor experience.</p>	<p>Redesign the campground and day-use areas, like what was done at Grayland Beach State Park. Yurts and full hook-ups would be the prevalent overnight accommodations. The layout of the campground might be significantly changed and some campsites might be abandoned.</p> <p>Such a major redesign process might take more years and would need to compete against other development projects for grant funding.</p>

Ocean City State Park Recreational Issues		
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities
<p><b>Trails</b></p> <p>Park visitors were interested in trails at the park. Trail development is constrained by the many wetlands in the area. There is a potential for trails to extend outside of the state park, especially a trail connection to the high school.</p> <p>Hiking trails are usually longer than interpretive trails.</p>	<p>In relation to an area interpretive plan, develop interpretive facilities, including signs, trails, and wildlife viewing opportunities.</p>	<p>Look for opportunities to increase hiking trails and connections inside and outside of the state park, provided partners actively participate.</p>
<p><b>Integrated pest management</b></p> <p>Although mosquitoes are part of the natural environment, they can be annoying and can also carry diseases, such as the West Nile Virus.</p>	<p>Please see integrated pest management plan under General North Beach Area Issues (below).</p> <p>For information about About the West Nile Virus, please follow the recommendations from the Department of Health's web page: <a href="#">West Nile Virus Questions &amp; Answers</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay indoors at dawn and dusk, if possible, when mosquitoes are the most active. (this might not be practical if you are tent camping).</li> <li>• Wear a long sleeve shirt, long pants, and a hat when going into mosquito-infested areas, such as wetlands or woods.</li> <li>• Use mosquito repellant when necessary. Read the label and carefully follow instructions. Take special care when using repellent on children.</li> </ul>	

## Griffiths-Priday Ocean State Park

Griffiths-Priday Ocean State Park Natural Issues		
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities
<p><b>Protection of natural plant and animal communities</b></p> <p>The Copalis River represents one of the best opportunities to safeguard freshwater biodiversity within the North Beach area. State Parks owns land along the river and has been encouraged to acquire the “Ghost Forest” for public use.</p> <p>Unlike the other state parks in the North Beach Area, there is room to grow at this park. In the recreational approach some private properties are included to potentially develop a full-service state park.</p>	<p>The natural approach is ambitious and includes public and private properties near the Copalis River. It would depend upon active partnership with government and non-profit partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ghost Forest properties and adjacent wetlands are included as Natural Area for preservation and interpretation.</li> <li>• Lands around the Copalis River and east of the state park are classified as Resource Recreation Area suitable for low to mid-level recreation, such as trails.</li> <li>• State property near the mouth of the Copalis River is classified as Natural Area for preservation, as is a small parcel abutting the park to the east.</li> <li>• Land classified Recreation Area only includes the existing developed area, the Heath Road ocean access, and a small jump-off point for launching and river interpretation.</li> </ul> <p>(Please see land classification and long-term boundary maps in Appendix C)</p>	<p>The recreational approach includes properties that would be suitable for recreation development, such as additional overnight facilities.</p> <p>The Ghost Forest is included in this approach too and remains Natural Area. Surrounding properties are not included.</p> <p>The jump-off point remains Recreation Area as a place for recreational exploration of the Copalis River.</p> <p>The small parcel abutting the park remains Natural Area.</p> <p>(Please see land classification and long-term boundary maps in Appendix C)</p>

<b>Griffiths-Priday Ocean State Park Recreational Issues</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources</b>	<b>Enhancing Recreational Opportunities</b>
<p><b>Future recreational development</b></p> <p>In stage one of the process, many customers encouraged us to expand camping in the North Beach area. Unlike the other state parks in the area, there is room nearby to grow at this park, provided the long-term boundary is expanded as described above in the recreational approach.</p> <p>Resorts and other developed properties could be developed into a full-service state park.</p>	<p>Don't include an expansion of camping in the North Beach area.</p>	<p>Acquire properties suitable for camping and other recreation.</p>
<p><b>Pedestrian bridge at Benner Road</b></p> <p>Stage one comments included a request to provide better access between Benner and Heath roads. A walking path through some properties included in the long-term boundary recreational approach above could be used or another pedestrian bridge could be built at Benner Road.</p>	<p>Depending upon plans for future recreational development, access and a new bridge at Benner Road would be considered in a design process.</p>	

<b>Griffiths-Priday Ocean State Park Recreational Issues</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources</b>	<b>Enhancing Recreational Opportunities</b>
<p><b>Human-powered boat launch</b></p> <p>A launch for human-powered boats to provide access to the Copalis River and the Ghost Forest was requested.</p>	Do not provide access to the Copalis River	Provide access to the Copalis River
<p><b>Highway pull-out</b></p> <p>There are places overlooking the Copalis River that would be attractive stopping points for scenic viewing. The Department of Transportation would need to approve a highway pull-out for safety reasons.</p>	Do not pursue development of the highway pull-out.	In cooperation with the Department of Transportation, find a place for a highway pullout on the road overlooking the Copalis River Natural Area.



## Pacific Beach State Park

Pacific Beach State Park Natural Issues		
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities
<b>Protection of natural plant and animal communities</b>  Pacific Beach is mostly a developed area suitable for high level recreation.	The entire park is classified as Recreation Area  (Please see land classification and long-term boundary map in Appendix C)	
<b>Creosote Pilings</b>  Pilings near the park may be coated with Creosote.	Evaluate the pilings and determine if the pilings can or should be removed.	

Pacific Beach State Park Recreational Issues		
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities
<p><b>Future development</b></p> <p>Most comments about this park were complimentary. Some improvements were requested:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop additional utility sites</li> <li>2. Repair drainage problems</li> <li>3. Build a welcome center or a building where campers can get together</li> <li>4. Improve the bathroom so it will be as good as the one previously remodeled</li> <li>5. Reinforce the sea wall</li> </ol>	<p>Improve Pacific Beach State Park as budget and agency priorities allow.</p>	
<p><b>Railroad Depot</b></p> <p>Congratulations to the North Beach community for seeking grant funding for the depot museum. This is a good time to reach a good understanding of the scope of the project and obtain necessary agency review.</p>	<p>Work with the North Beach community to ensure review of the project in accordance with agency rules ( <a href="#">WAC 352-32-340: Approval of community-based park improvements — Policies.</a> )</p>	

## Seashore Conservation Area

Seashore Conservation Area (SCA) Natural Issues		
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities
<p><b>Protection of natural plant and animal communities</b></p> <p>The Seashore Conservation Area is a challenging area where protection of natural plant and animal communities must be balanced with the Declaration of Principles (RCW 79A.05.600) passed by the Washington State Legislature.</p>	<p>No particular long-term boundary for the seashore is provided. State Parks remains interested in talking with adjacent landowners about potential land transactions, including conservation easements, management agreement and land acquisitions. Of particular interest are the following type properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adjacent to beach approaches</li> <li>• recovery areas for snowy plovers</li> <li>• lands near existing state parks</li> <li>• second class tidelands owned privately</li> </ul> <p>The default land classification for the Seashore Conservation Area is Recreation Area.</p>	
<p><b>Beach mining</b></p> <p>During the 2008 legislative session a law (HB 6343<sup>3</sup>) was passed that requires State Parks, in consultation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), to establish a pilot program to allow small scale prospecting and mining on ocean beaches.</p> <p>The law requires that three demonstration areas be established. The law expires December 1, 2010. A report to the appropriate committees of the Washington State Legislature is due before the law expires.</p>	<p>State Parks is working with WDFW and small-scale mineral prospectors to comply with the requirements of HB 6343. Two pilot program areas have been established. One is on the Copalis Beach, and the other on Roosevelt Beach. State Parks will work with others to minimize potential for damage to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beach environment</li> <li>• Birds</li> <li>• Shellfish</li> <li>• Other beach marine life</li> <li>• Fish habitat</li> <li>• Other recreational uses</li> </ul>	

<sup>3</sup> <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2007-08/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/6343-S.PL.pdf>

Seashore Conservation Area Recreational Issues		
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities
<p><b>Copalis Airport</b></p> <p>In 1951 Grays Harbor County commissioners passed a resolution to designate a landing area for light aircraft “between the Copalis River and north approximately one mile to the “rocks”. The landing area was included in the North Beach Recreational Management Plan submitted by Grays Harbor County and approved by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.</p> <p>Neighbors have expressed concerns about the airport.</p>	<p>The airport is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation Division. State Parks will help facilitate and encourage a meeting between the public and WSDOT this summer to allow for public comment related to airport operations.</p> <p>State Aviation and State Parks are working together to ensure airport operation procedures and responsibilities are clearly defined through an interagency memorandum of understanding which will reflect standards of both agencies</p> <p>To clarify the location of the airport, State Parks will update its rules to show that the airport ends at the Copalis Rocks.</p>	
<p><b>Improvements to existing Ocean Beach Access (OBA) sites</b></p> <p>State Parks works with local governments to provide ocean beach access to the Seashore Conservation Area, including the North Beach area. Ideas to improve the following ocean beach access points will be evaluated in the planning process.</p>	<p>Ocean City OBA – Maintain the current size and classify as Recreation Area.</p>	<p>Ocean City OBA – Include properties to the east for future recreational development and ranger housing. One property is a private campground that might be suitable for an equestrian group camp or other recreational facility.</p> <p>(Please see land classification and long-term boundary maps in Appendix C)</p> <p>Analyde Gap – Install a new vault toilet.</p>

<b>Seashore Conservation Area Recreational Issues</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources</b>	<b>Enhancing Recreational Opportunities</b>
<p><b>Future Ocean Beach Access (OBA) site</b></p> <p>Access to the ocean beach is limited between Pacific and Roosevelt Beach and an additional site might provide better service during high-use periods.</p>	<p>State Parks will investigate an area near Yellow Bluff to see if it is suitable and there are potential partners.</p> <p>(Please see map in Appendix D)</p>	
<p><b>Seashore conservation line</b></p> <p>Each decade since 1968, as required by court order and deeds of dedication, Parks re-establishes the Seashore Conservation Line (SCL) within the Seashore Conservation Area (SCA).</p> <p>The survey could be improved and resolve outstanding issues with adjacent landowners.</p>	<p>State Parks will need additional resources to conduct the 2010 SCL survey along the entire SCA.</p>	
<p><b>Update of the North Beach Recreation Management Plan for the Ocean Beaches</b></p> <p>Customers requested further restrictions on beach driving.</p> <p>Statutes (RCW 79A.05.600 through 79A.05-630) establish and regulate the Seashore Conservation Area. Local governments adopted recreation management plans in 1989 that met the requirements of the statutes.</p>	<p>In response to comments, staff reviewed the 1989 Recreation Management plans. Plan updates are recommended due to changing circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fires and garbage continue to be problems.</li> <li>▪ The need to plan for changing beach conditions and continued public access.</li> <li>▪ Many parking and beach access improvements have been made, but not all. Parties to the plan could re-evaluate old goals, add new ones and seek funding together.</li> <li>▪ Shorebird recovery plans need to be added to the plans.</li> <li>▪ Tsunami preparation.</li> <li>▪ Inter-governmental planning for enforcement, emergency services, and maintenance.</li> </ul>	

Seashore Conservation Area Recreational Issues		
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities
<p><b>Erosion control at Ocean Shores</b></p> <p>In response to an emergency situation, the City of Ocean Shores and the Commission entered into an agreement that allowed temporary installation of erosion-control devices near the North Jetty. In 1998 additional devices were added on a temporary basis. In 2003, the City requested an extension of the agreement until May 15, 2006.</p> <p>Sand accretion at the site has buried the erosion-control devices. The devices may become uncovered in the future if the pattern of erosion resumes.</p>	Update the agreement with the City of Ocean Shores.	

**General issues relating to North Beach area state parks**

<b>General issues relating to North Beach area state parks</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources</b>	<b>Enhancing Recreational Opportunities</b>
<b>Protection of archaeological resources</b>	Conduct archaeological survey prior to disturbance of areas affected by development. Continue to consult with Tribes that may have an interest in the archaeological and traditional cultural properties in the state park.  State Parks staff will follow the direction contained in the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Cultural Resources Policy 12-98-1.	
<b>Integrated pest management</b>	State Parks will develop integrated pest management plans for its properties.	
<b>Interpretation</b>  Visitors are interested in birding, wildlife viewing opportunities and information about the natural world around them.	Staff have created an interpretive plan for the North Beach area state parks, which shall be implemented as resources become available.	



## LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

This is the stage of the planning process where we offer alternatives to issues identified earlier. If you are interested and want to participate, you can do so in two ways.

1. You are invited to a workshop from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, May 27 at the Shilo Inn, 707 Ocean Shores Blvd. NW, Ocean Shores.
2. You can contact us directly with comments on the proposed alternatives or suggest different alternatives. Comments received before June 15 will be reviewed by the planning team at its next meeting.

If we have missed an issue important to you, please let us know.

Thank you very much for taking time to bring our North Beach area state parks to Centennial 2013 standards. Please direct written correspondence to Brian Hovis.

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